

Comments on Three Soviet Trade Publications:

Foreign Trade of the USSR with Socialist Countries (1957)

Foreign Trade of the USSR with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (1958)

Foreign Trade of the USSR with Capitalist Countries (1957)

1. We have briefly reviewed the above books, all of which were published by the Scientific-Technical Marketing Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, USSR. Only the first two, regarding Soviet trade with Free World underdeveloped countries and with the Bloc, respectively, are of any intelligence interest. All three books follow the same format: a preface, describing Soviet trade with the particular area as a whole, is followed by individual "country" chapters, in which the history of Soviet trade with each important country in the area is dealt with in detail.

2. Soviet Foreign Trade with Socialist Countries contains some hitherto unpublished Soviet data on its trade with Bloc countries in 1950, including trade balances. ~~In addition, the latest available Soviet valuation of its credits to the Bloc -- (28 billion rubles) -- appears on p. 17.~~ Both the preface and the country chapters, while offering no new clues to Soviet economic policy in the Bloc, contain detailed information on Soviet commodity trade.

3. Soviet Foreign Trade with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (1958) yields no new information regarding Soviet policies or motivations in the underdeveloped countries, although in the preface a brief summary of Soviet economic relations with these areas places the

current trade offensive in historical perspective. The country chapters for such areas as Afghanistan, which does not regularly publish its trade statistics, provide interesting details on Soviet trade balances and on the commodity composition of Soviet trade with these areas.

4. Soviet Foreign Trade with Capitalist Countries (1957), appears to be of little or no intelligence value. In the 14-page preface, Soviet trade with these countries is discussed in the usual Soviet terms, and the country chapters disclose no significant trade data which are not already known from other sources.